

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 April 2003 (17.04.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/031938 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **B01D 57/02**

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/32670

(22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2002 (10.10.2002)

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(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/328,724	11 October 2001 (11.10.2001)	US
60/348,228	29 October 2001 (29.10.2001)	US
60/394,517	9 July 2002 (09.07.2002)	US

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,  
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC,  
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK,  
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
13 November 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS, COMPOSITIONS, AND AUTOMATED SYSTEMS FOR SEPARATING RARE CELLS FROM FLUID  
SAMPLES

(57) Abstract: The present invention recognizes that diagnosis and prognosis of many conditions can depend on the enrichment of rare cells from a complex fluid sample. In particular, the enrichment of fetal cells from maternal samples, such as maternal blood samples, can greatly aid in the detection of fetal abnormalities or a variety of genetic conditions. In addition, the present invention recognizes that the enrichment of rare malignant cells from patient samples, can aid in diagnosis, prognosis, and development of therapeutic modalities for patients.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/32670

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : B01D 57/02  
 US CL : 435/283.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 435/283.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 BRS, MEDLINE

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,837,115 A (AUSTIN et al.) 17 November 1998 (17.11.1998), see entire document.	1-204
A	US 3,635,798 A (KIRKHAM et al.) 18 January 1972 (18.01.1972), see column 3, lines 13-23.	1-204

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 July 2003 (23.07.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 AUG 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
 Commissioner for Patents  
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 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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